MANAGEMENT PLAN

July 2000

for Chilliwack Lake Park & Chilliwack River Ecological Reserve

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Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park
& Chilliwack River Ecological Reserve
Management Plan

Approved by:

R E Peterson Date: 2000 - 07 - 24

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District Manager

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BC Parks would like to acknowledge the contribution of over 200 individuals, organizations, the Sto:lo and Nlaka'pamux First Nations and elected representatives; all of which shaped the plan. These voluntary contributions, delivered orally, by letter and by electronic means are invaluable in the building of any plan and are an indication of the care and concern that people have for the provincial parks and ecological reserve.

Special thanks to Shirley Harrop for her assistance in preparing this Master Plan.

M.H. Turner
BC Parks
Lower Mainland District

Plan Highlights

- Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park and Chilliwack River Ecological Reserve will be managed as part of a million hectare transboundary protected area.
- Almost 90% of the park will be zoned as Natural Environment, characterized by low use.
- Existing trails, wilderness camps, and the older section of the existing campground will be upgraded.
- The park will provide a variety of recreation opportunities a section of the Trans Canada Trail.
- A fire management plan will be prepared that addresses visitor safety.
- A bridge will be constructed near the lake's outlet to facilitate public access to the west side of Chilliwack River and the Trans Canada Trail.
- The Upper Chilliwack Lake Trail will be relocated out of the Ecological Reserve.
- Vegetation and wildlife management plans will be prepared.
- A speed restriction will be requested to support the Natural Environment atmosphere.

This plan sets out a clear direction for the park and ecological reserve. Immediate and future management strategies are described and prioritized. How and when these Management Strategies will be fulfilled is dependent on the resources available to BC Parks.

Introduction

The Management Planning Process

A Management plan is an administrative manual and public document that directs protected area management for a five to ten year term. It sets out objectives and appropriate Management Strategies for conservation, recreation development, if appropriate, feature interpretation and protected area operations. Plan contents are based on an interpretation of current information relating to natural and cultural resources, recreation use, demand and activities both within the protected area and surrounding lands. The management planning process involves a rigorous analysis of the overall goals of the park and ecological reserve, patterns of use, management objectives, identified conflicts and public expectation.

Relationship to Other Land Use Planning Initiatives

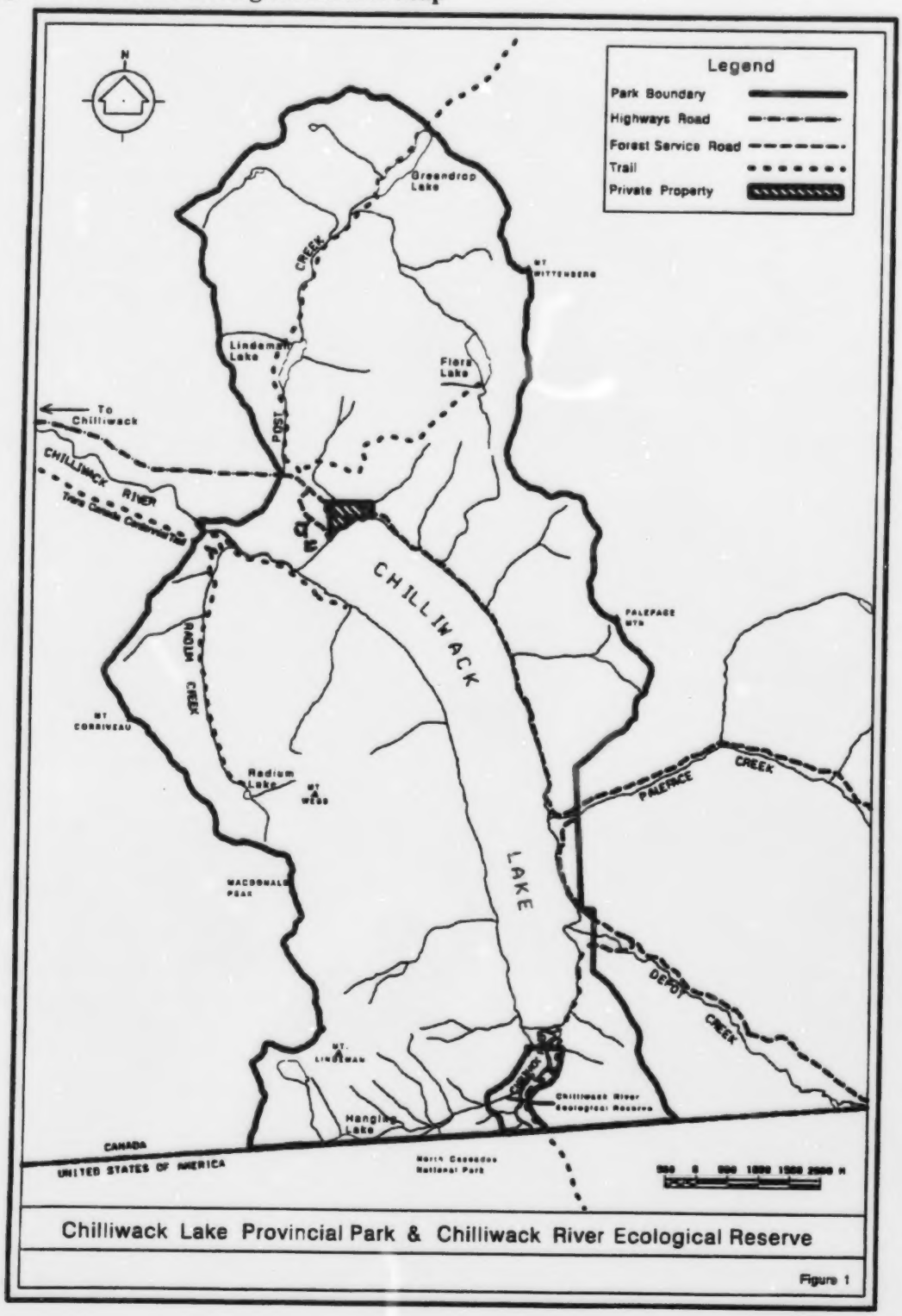
This management plan for Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park and Chilliwack River Ecological Reserve builds on the approved 1973 Master Plan for the park, the 1990 Management Statement for the ecological reserve and recreation/conservation strategies outlined in the 1996 Lower Mainland Protected Area Strategy recommendations. The plan is influenced by management plans on surrounding public lands, in particular the Chilliwack Provincial Forest, North Cascades National Park and other provincial parks including Cultus Lake, Skagit Valley and Sasquatch. For the park, the plan is intended to complement these other plans and to preserve the natural environment for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public. For the ecological reserve, the plan is intended to outline management strategies in order to protect the reserve's natural values for research and education purposes.

Background Summary

Located in the upper Chilliwack River Valley and directly bordering on the northern boundary of North Cascades National Park in the United States, Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park and the Chilliwack River Ecological Reserve lie 43 kilometers southeast of Chilliwack and approximately 150 kilometers east of Vancouver (*Figure 1*). Totaling over 9,000 hectares, the combined protected area conserves spectacular lake, mountain, forest and river habitats in the southern portion of the Eastern Pacific Ranges Ecosection.

In 1973, a 160 hectare provincial park, including a 100 site campground, a small day area and boat launch, was established at the north end of Chilliwack Lake to serve the Lower Mainland's recreation needs. In 1980, almost 90 hectares of the upper Chilliwack River environment was set

Figure 1. Park and Ecological Reserve Map



aside as an ecological reserve to protect a productive floodplain forest stand for the purposes of research and stock improvement.

Significant expansion of Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park occurred in 1997 as part of the Lower Mainland Protected Area Strategy plan. Encompassing the Chilliwack River Ecological Reserve and complementing North Cascades National Park in Washington, the protected area conserves important natural features, including endangered habitat for red and blue-listed species and two representative biogeoclimatic environments that are under-represented in the Lower Mainland. It also provides numerous developed recreation opportunities including hiking, climbing, fishing, hunting, international horse trail riding, camping, boating and nature study.

A more detailed description of background material can be found in the provincial park Background Document and in the management statement for the ecological reserve.

Planning Issues

The plan addresses a number of planning issues raised by the public and identified by BC Parks. These issues, discussed more fully in the Background Document, include:

Conservation Issues

- *Managing endangered species habitats* in association with provincial ministries and agencies in the United States. Conjoining protected areas are a vital component for several species; including spotted owl and grizzly bear conservation strategies.

- *Managing archeological sites* that have been located in the park.

- *Managing old-growth forest stands*, both in the park and in the ecological reserve. The stands are valuable additions to protected area resources.

- *Managing fisheries* and sensitive fish habitats in the park. Those in the Chilliwack River, along lakeshore fans and at Paleface and Depot Creek deltas are important park features.

- *Managing the Ecological Reserve* within the context of its conservation objectives. Routing of the ecological reserve trail and connections to North Cascades National Park are elements of this issue.

Recreation Use Issues

- *Managing for increased use* of the park. Park expansion at Chilliwack Lake offers opportunities to enhance existing overnight and day-use facilities to meet increasing recreation demands in the Lower Mainland.

- *Managing public vehicle access* within the park considering that the Chilliwack Lake Forest Service Road, along the east side of Chilliwack Lake, is not included in the park.

Role of the Protected Area

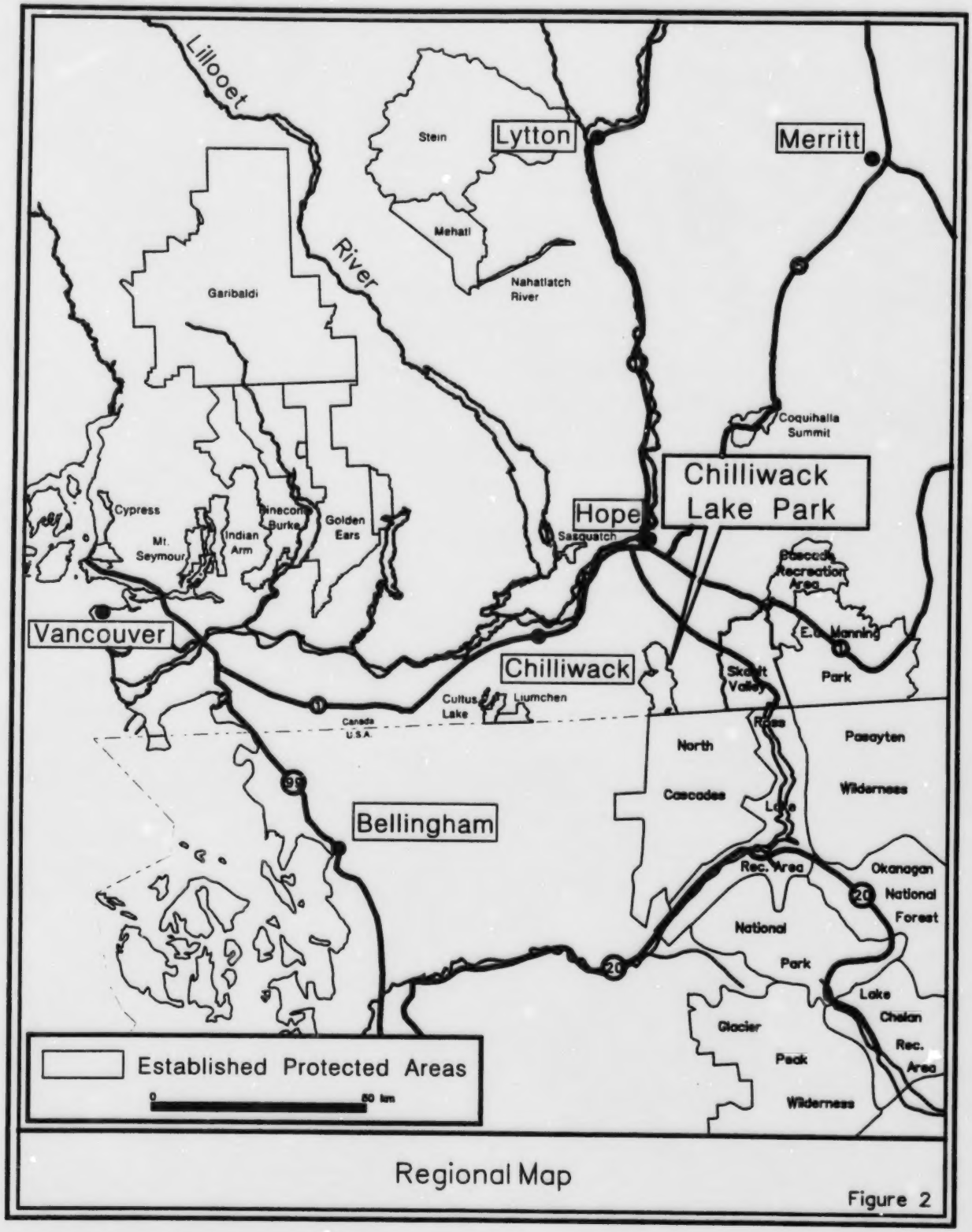
Protected Area System Context

Within a transboundary context, Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park and Chilliwack River Ecological Reserve, together with the Mount Baker Wilderness Area, North Cascades National Park, Skagit Valley and E.C. Manning Provincial Parks (*Figure 2)*, protect over a million hectares of significant natural, cultural and recreation features in the Eastern Pacific Ranges Ecosection. Important benefits to the international community include the conservation of significant biological habitats and the presentation of outdoor recreation opportunities in a backcountry setting.

Provincially, Chilliwack Lake Park is reflective of a classic British Columbia lake /mountain park, similar to Birkenhead Lake Park north of Whistler or Schoen Lake Park west of Sayward on Vancouver Island. The park protects various environments in an enclosed valley landscape and provides recreation opportunities associated with a large lake encompassed by steep valley walls and subalpine ridges. Forests of the ecological reserve are recognized for their outstanding, genetically valuable trees. The protected wildlife habitat for spotted owl in the combined park and ecological reserve is a significant part of a provincial conservation strategy.

Although the combined protected area complements existing provincial parks in the Fraser Valley (Cultus Lake, International Ridge, Sasquatch, Skagit Valley and E.C. Manning), Chilliwack Lake offers a significantly different environment than any other. It presents a notably different character than intensely developed parks and offers a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities associated with the large valley-bottom lake, forested slope, rolling alpine /sub-alpine and steep-sided mountains recreation settings.

Figure 2. Regional Map



Conservation Role

In keeping with the defined conservation goals of BC Parks' protected area system, the primary conservation roles for Chilliwack Lake Park and the Chilliwack River Ecological Reserve are:

- To contribute to conservation of representative elements of the Eastern Pacific Ranges Ecosection, in particular the dry Submaritime Subzone of the Coastal Western Hemlock Biogeoclimatic Zone.
- To conserve special biological features of the ecosection, particularly habitat systems associated with Spotted owl and Grizzly bear.
- To preserve a viable sample of the floodplain and old-growth forest environment for ecological research and education purposes.

Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Role

Chilliwack Lake Park has a significant role for outdoor recreation and tourism. It contributes to two of BC Parks' defined goals for outdoor recreation:

- To provide opportunities that help satisfy outdoor recreation demands of regional residents and their visitors.
- To provide backcountry recreation opportunities within a high quality natural area.

The ecological reserve will play no recreation role.

Cultural Heritage Role

Little is currently recorded of the cultural significance of the protected area.

- To protect cultural heritage features associated with First Nation and European use of the park area.

Vision Statement

Into the future, Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park and Chilliwack River Ecological Reserve will conserve pristine natural values and special features as part of a transboundary protected area complex. A majority of the park will be dedicated to preservation. Important habitats will be protected for rare, endangered and representative species of the Eastern Pacific Ranges Ecosection.

Road accessed facilities for family camping and day-use will be concentrated at the north end of Chilliwack Lake, with hiking, horse, bicycle and winter trails radiating to recreation features that include old-growth forests, lake deltas, mountain lakes and alpine meadows. Some trails will assume both a national significance (Centennial/Trans-Canada Trail) and an international importance (North Cascades National Park trail). The park will become known for its beautiful lake and mountains setting with backcountry recreation features that are in close proximity to a major populated region of Canada.

Preservation of the natural environment for study and research will be the only purpose of the ecological reserve.

Relationship with First Nations

Cultural significance of the protected area is not fully known. The Sto:lo First Nation had a village site at Chilliwack Lake that was connected to other village sites between the lake and Vedder Crossing Similarly, the Nlaka'pamux First Nation have noted that their territory extends to the protected area.

Park Zoning

Zoning is a planning procedure used to organize a provincial park into comprehensive land and water units based on management objectives. As directed by the *Park Amendment Act, 1997*, parks established for more than one purpose must be managed in accordance with a zoning plan. Legislation does not require that ecological reserves be zoned.

Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park is divided into four zones, each contributing to the park management vision and complementing adjacent land-uses. Figure 3 illustrates the park zoning plan.

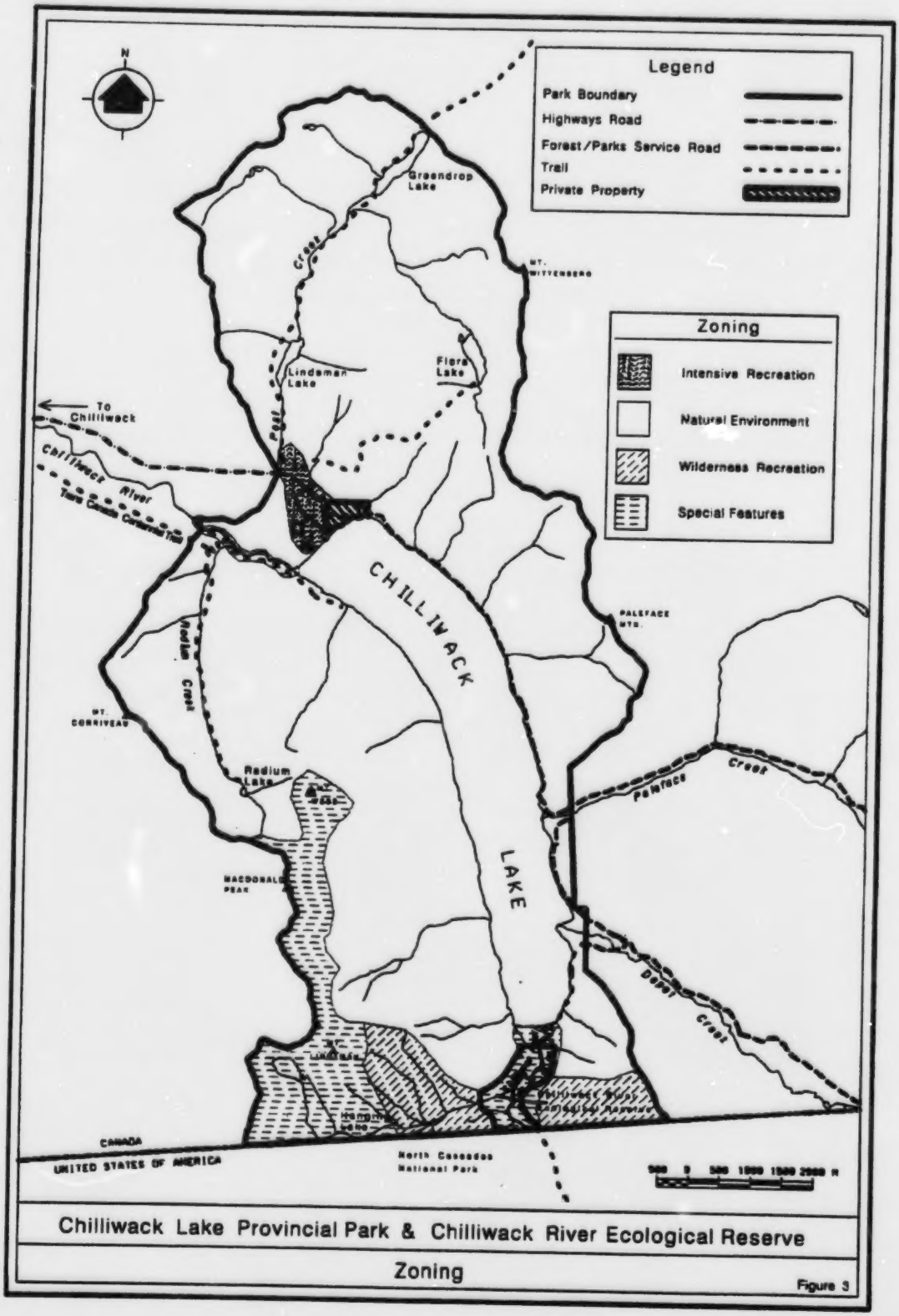
Intensive Recreation Zone

This zone permits the development and management of auto-access facilities and is oriented to intensive, concentrated outdoor recreation activity. Approximately 100 hectares or 1% of the park is zoned as Intensive Recreation, including land suited for campground, day-use and park operations facilities.

Natural Environment Zone

Maintenance of a largely undisturbed natural environment where appropriate non-vehicular recreation opportunities occur is a primary management objective in the Natural Environment zone. Though characterized by low to moderate use, this zone precludes any sense of wilderness isolation. Facilities include trails and walk-in /boat-in /cycle-in campsites. The largest portion of the park, some 8000 hectares or 87% including the valley slopes encompassing Chilliwack Lake, is zoned as Natural Environment.

Figure 3. Zoning Plan



Wilderness Recreation Zone

At Chilliwack Lake Park, one objective of the Wilderness Recreation zone is to complement Management Objectives in adjacent North Cascades National Park. The zone preserves an undisturbed natural landscape wherein limited, non-motorized backcountry recreation activities and support facilities are allowed. Only a small portion of the park, approximately 4%, is zoned as Wilderness Recreation, essentially along the United States-Canada border.

Special Features Zone

Special Feature zoning is intended to preserve natural or cultural features that display special cultural, biological, physical or recreational characteristics. Management is oriented towards protecting their high quality, while permitting restricted recreational and interpretive use where impact is minimal. Motorized activities are not allowed.

Included in this zone is the special natural environment of the Chilliwack River north and south of Chilliwack Lake and the sub-alpine habitats that exist in the Mount Webb and Mount Lindeman areas of the park. Some 8% of the park is zoned for special features.

Plate 1 -Chilliwack River Ecological Reserve

Managing Natural, Cultural & Recreation Values

General Management Policies

Park and ecological reserve management will be directed toward the protection of natural features and processes, based on the *Park Amendment Act, 1997, 1997 Park Regulations* and the *Ecological Reserve Act*. Principles for conservation management are embodied in BC Parks' Conservation Program Policies.

Resource management objectives for Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park, as interpreted from Ministry's conservation goals, are:

- to protect the park with its representative and unique natural environments, cultural and recreation resources;
- to permit only appropriate types and levels of recreation use;
- to monitor use and environmental impacts in order to establish resource guidelines;
- to complement resource management objectives of adjacent protected lands.

Park zoning will largely define the levels and criteria for resource management and recreation enhancements in Chilliwack Lake Park.

The resource management objective for Chilliwack River Ecological Reserve is:

- to protect the reserve's natural values for research and education purposes.

Land and Resource Tenures

Park designation resulted in the inclusion of a number of previously established land and resource tenures. Two License of Occupation permits issued by BC Lands (a church camp and a trapline cabin) are located at the delta of Paleface Creek. Two water licenses are in place to supply private land at the north end of the lake.

Management Objectives:
To legalize existing tenures.

Management Strategies:

- place the church camp under a park use permit that reflects the current license of occupation and park policy;
- issue park use permits to acknowledge existing water licenses for private residences adjacent to the park;

Water

Water features are dominant in the provincial park and ecological reserve. Chilliwack Lake and the upper Chilliwack River, as well as several mountain lakes, tributary streams and cascades are water features that provide high quality aquatic habitat and outstanding recreation opportunities.

Management Objectives:
To maintain the high natural quality of water in the park and ecological reserve for fishery habitat, landscape aesthetics and health considerations.

Management Strategies:

- design and locate all facilities to minimize risks of contaminating water sources, including the adjacent private property;
- review logging plans on adjacent Chilliwack Provincial Forest lands to ensure added protection to water quality and fish habitats.

Vegetation

The park represents three biogeoclimatic zones - Coastal Western Hemlock, Mountain Hemlock and Alpine Tundra - and two subzones of the Coastal Western Hemlock Zone. The Southern Variant of the dry Submaritime Subzone is the southernmost example in the Province.

The ecological reserve supports a floodplain of old-growth forests. Spruce trees in this reserve have been found to be hybrids of coastal Sitka spruce and interior Engelmann spruce. The largest grand fir ever measured in British Columbia is also located in the reserve and Western red cedar and Douglas-fir also attain near record dimensions.

Management Objectives:
To conserve park vegetation, with particular management emphasis on old-growth forests sub-alpine species and lodgepole pine fire/forests, in order that the naturally occurring diversity and succession of plant associations within the park is sustained. Where compatible, special vegetation features will be presented for public appreciation.

Within the ecological reserve, an added measure of protection will ensure that the old-growth forest ecology is preserved for research and education purposes.

Management Strategies:

- develop a vegetation management plan for the park that includes:
  - a fire management plan, particularly for the lodgepole pine flats north of the lake, that addresses visitor safety
  - a study of the rare plants on Mount Lindeman ridge
  - a research strategy for study of the old-growth forests in the ecological reserve
  - consideration of natural tree hazards occurring within the Intensive Recreation zone;
- monitor bank erosion within the ecological reserve and consider the protection of the bank in cases where outstanding tree specimens are threatened.

Terrestrial Wildlife

The diversity of habitats reflects the significant number of bird, amphibian, fish and mammal species found in the park. The background report records over 40 mammals, over 20 reptiles and amphibians and over 130 birds.

There are rare and endangered wildlife species that require particularly careful management, including the Pacific Giant Salamander, Trowbridge Shrew and the Spotted Owl. Others, such as the grizzly bear, mountain goat and Roosevelt elk, are rare visitors to the park that require consideration in wildlife management strategies.

Management Objectives:
To maintain the natural representative diversity of wildlife species typical within the park and ecological reserve and manage certain species for hunting, subject to conservation and safety issues. Particular attention to rare and endangered species will promote transboundary conservation objectives.

Management Strategies:

- conduct a wildlife habitat inventory for the protected area;
- develop a wildlife management strategy /plan in conjunction with wildlife management agencies outside the park area, including North Cascades National Park;
- develop a wildlife viewing strategy to enhance visitor appreciation of the variety of wildlife found in the park; e.g. spawning in the Chilliwack River.

Aquatic Wildlife

The park with its combination of lakes, major tributaries and Chilliwack Lake offers exceptional fish habitat. The protected area provides habitat for over 11 species of fish. Chilliwack Lake supports suckers and mountain whitefish, steelhead, rainbow, Dolly Varden and Kokanee trout and five salmon species. Kokanee spawn in Paleface, Depot, Hanging Lake Creek and the upper Chilliwack River. Bull Trout are now reported in Chilliwack Lake. Sockeye and coho spawn in all tributary mouths to the lake, pinks spawn in the lake outlet and chum spawn in Paleface Creek.

Lindeman, Flora, Greendrop and Hanging Lake were stocked 20 years ago with rainbow trout.

Management Objectives:

To protect fish habitats throughout the park and ecological reserve and maintain fish stocks that will permit a sustainable recreational fishery at appropriate locations in the provincial park.

Management Strategies:

- develop a fisheries management strategy that builds on current knowledge and addresses lake stocking requirements and habitat protection priorities;
- design and locate all park facilities to minimize risks of disturbing fish habitat at streams and along lakeshores;
- review stocking /management requirements for alpine lakes within the protected area.

Cultural

Very little is currently recorded about the cultural values of the park and ecological reserve at this time, although studies are being completed by the Sto:lo Nation. In addition, the Nlaka'pamux First Nation have identified the area as part of their traditional territory.

Management Objectives:

To research and discover facts and features related to the cultural heritage of the protected area. Strategies for managing discovered features will be based on established conservation management policies and Sto:lo and Nlaka'pamux tradition.

Management Strategies:

- solicit management recommendations from Sto:lo and Nlaka'pamux First Nations for features disclosed in cultural heritage inventories.

Visual Landscape

The boundary of the protected area does not contain the natural viewshed of Chilliwack Lake. Paleface and Depot Creek valleys will be logged again in the future, with resulting visual impacts to be managed. Most other park features, for example, Lindeman and Greendrop Lakes, are situated in enclosed viewsheds.

Management Objectives:

To work cooperatively with the Ministry of Forests to ensure that logging plans in adjacent drainages conserve the high quality of landscape views available from within the park and with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to improve roadside aesthetics.

Management Strategies:

- review the existing Visual Quality Objectives for the Depot and Paleface Creek drainages and the park entrance.

Resource Research

With biological diversity protected at Chilliwack Lake and in adjacent North Cascades National Park, opportunities for research are numerous. The protected area's situation at the "end of the road" offers added value.

Management Objectives:
To promote use of the park and the ecological reserve for research of its natural resources so as to improve our ability to manage the protected area and contribute towards overall learning.

Management Strategies:

- direct and encourage research of park and ecological reserve features:
  - old-growth coastal forest of the CWH Biogeoclimatic Zone
  - rare and endangered wildlife species
- approach provincial institutions with specific invitations for biological research proposals.

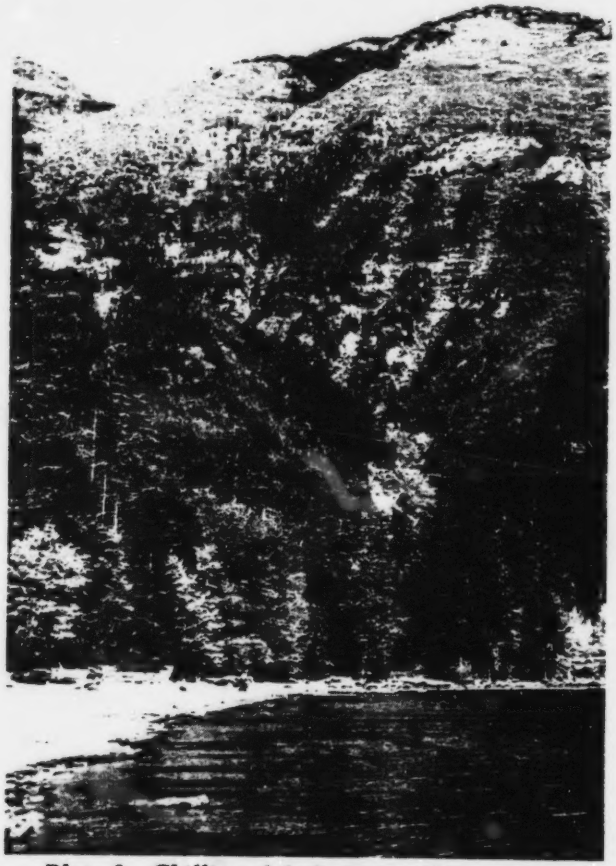


Plate 2 - Chilliwack Lake Park - day use area

Managing Opportunities for Outdoor Recreation

Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park offers many outdoor recreation opportunities for public use and enjoyment. Management of these opportunities will be based on the park zoning plan and visitor services policies of BC Parks. Opportunities will be developed to levels appropriate with documented demands in the regional market area and will be subject to environmental assessment.
Figure 4 portrays the recreation opportunities.

Road Access

Visits to the protected area depend on the provision of access. The Chilliwack Valley Forest Service Road provides excellent vehicular access to the north end of Chilliwack Lake.

Within the park, road access will be restricted to the Intensive Recreation Zone. The forest access road along the east side of Chilliwack Lake is maintained by the Ministry of Forests.

Management Objectives:
To maintain motor vehicle access within the Intensive Recreation zone and monitor the effects of continued access on the Ministry of Forests' road.

Management Strategies:

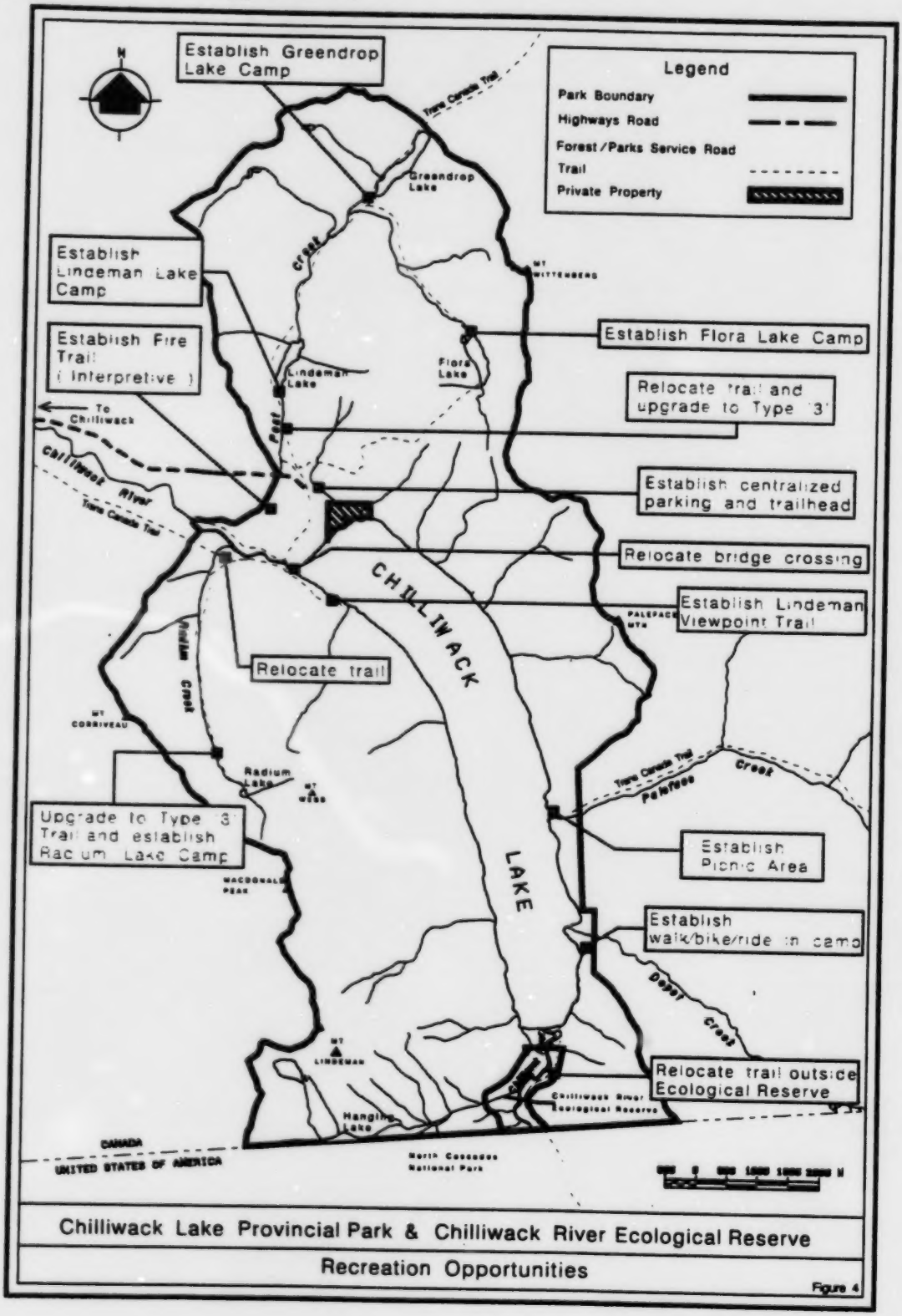
- liase with the Ministry of Forests and other interests, including the United States National Park Service and the Chilliwack Fish and Game Association to minimize impact on park resources along the east side of Chilliwack Lake.

Hiking and Backpacking

Over 40 kilometers of existing backpacking trails provide access to the majority of the park, although most require substantial improvement to protect the park resource. Unorganized wilderness camps are located at Greendrop, Lindeman, Flora and Radium Lakes. As use has increased, so has the need to formalize sites to avoid environmental damage.

The Centennial Trail linking the Chilliwack and Skagit Valleys traverses the north part of the park and encompasses the Greendrop-Lindeman Trail. The Trans Canada Trail is a significant endeavour of Trails BC and other national trail organizations. In addition, the Upper Chilliwack River Trail serves as a north access to North Cascades National Park.

Figure 4. Recreation Opportunities



Management Objectives:
To provide non-motorized public access to park features on a designated trail system, with appropriate facilities provided for backcountry camping and horse use.

Management Strategies:

- establish 30 car central trailhead at park entrance and relocate start of Greendrop Lake (Centennial) Trail and Radium Lake Trail including a bridge across the outlet of Chilliwack Lake;
- upgrade Flora Lake Loop Trail, Greendrop-Lindeman Trail and Radium Trail to park standard (Type 3);
- relocate upper Chilliwack Trail (North Cascades National Park Trail) to outside the ecological reserve and upgrade to park standard (Type 3);
- formalize wilderness campsites at Lindeman Lake (15 sites), Greendrop Lake (10 sites), Radium Lake (5 sites) and Flora Lake (5 sites);
- establish walk-in/boat-in campsites at Depot Creek Camp (25 sites) delta;
- establish Paleface Creek Valley as the official route for the horse/cycling component of the Trans Canada Trail as it passes through the park. The Centennial Trail will be the hiking component.
- establish the Chilliwack River Trail (Type 3) on the east side of the river to connect Post Creek subdivision with the campground.
- establish day-use beach picnic sites at Paleface Creek and the south end of Chilliwack Lake. Trailhead parking to provide access to Depot Creek delta and the south end of Chilliwack Lake will be established at Depot Creek Bridge. This will also serve as staging for North Cascades National Park.

Frontcountry Camping

The existing campground at the north end of Chilliwack provides 131 campsites that are automobile accessible. Some 85 of these sites require reconstruction.

Management Objectives:
To provide centralized, motorized-access campsites and associated developments at a level that will contribute to established regional demands and protect park conservation values.

Management Strategies:

- upgrade existing sites to meet park standards;
- establish fire-history interpretive trail in association with the campground;
- establish, in association with the campground, the Webb Trail (Type 2) to Lindeman Viewpoint on the west side of Chilliwack Lake.

Hunting and Fishing

The expanded portion of the park remains open for hunting and all lakes are open for fishing. Fishing opportunities vary by lake; however opportunities for enhancement of the recreational fishery may exist.

Management Objectives:
To provide recreational hunting and fishing opportunities for park visitors while maintaining closures in the ecological reserve.

Management Strategies:

- in concert with the Chilliwack Fish and Game Association and the United States National Park Service, enact hunting regulations that reflect the safety and conservation objectives of the park.

Horseback Riding

Chilliwack Lake Park lies on a portion of a significant trail traverse across the southern part of B.C. Volunteer work undertaken by local clubs and organizations have benefited the route considerably.

Management Objectives:
To encourage backcountry horse use by providing equestrian facilities and trails linking the park to the Skagit Valley (as part of a provincial trail network) and to Washington State (as part of an international trail network).

Management Strategies:

- request Ministry of Forests to allow horses on the Chilliwack Lake Forest Access road along the Lake's east side as part of the Trans Canada Trail;
- provide for convenient horse loading /unloading at the central trailhead;
- designate the Trans Canada Trail in the park as a horse trail.

Mountain Biking

The Chilliwack Lake Forest Access Road provides mountain biking access to recreation features at Depot and Paleface Creeks. Mountain biking is prohibited in the adjoining portion of North Cascades National Park.

Management Objectives:
To continue to provide limited trail opportunities for mountain biking.

Management Strategies:

- request Ministry of Forests to allow mountain biking on the Chilliwack Lake Forest Access road as part of the Trans Canada Trail;
- provide cycle-in camping at Depot Creek Camp;
- designate the Trans Canada Trail in the park for bicycling.

Snow Recreation

Because of its elevation and topography, the park has limited suitability for winter recreation. Under certain conditions, the north end of the park serves as a staging area for Nordic skiing and snowmobiling along the Chilliwack Lake Forest Access road.

Management Objectives:
To provide limited opportunities for snow recreation in keeping with the park vision and zoning plan.

Management Strategies:

- request Ministry of Forests to allow use of the Chilliwack Lake Forest Access road for ski touring and snowmobile access to recreation features at Paleface Creek and Depot Creek in the Provincial Forest.
- prohibit snowmobiles in the park.

Motor-boating and Canoeing

Chilliwack Lake provides the only opportunity for boating and canoeing in the park. Both are popular summer activities that are facilitated at several other locations in the Fraser Valley as well. Maintaining a natural atmosphere on Chilliwack Lake can be achieved through a variety of safety, noise and conservation management Management Strategies.

Management Objectives:
To protect the natural atmosphere of Chilliwack Lake by limiting opportunities for motorized boating.

Management Strategies:

- enhance small boat launching, canoe support facilities and launch area parking within the Intensive Recreation zone;
- request Fisheries and Oceans to enact regulations to implement a 10 km/hr, 100 meter shoreline speed restriction around the lake and a 25 km/hr restriction on the remainder of the lake.

Resource Education

Visitors in the park and ecological reserve are presented with numerous opportunities for personal outdoor study. The natural character of protected area resources lends itself to outdoor education, use and appreciation.

Management Objectives:
To provide visitors with outdoor education information that will enhance their understanding and appreciation of park and ecological reserve features and values.

Management Strategies:

- prepare a Visitor Services Plan that:
  - integrates an interpretive sign strategy pertaining to surficial geology, the Cascade Mountains and surrounding protected areas,
  - emphasizes boating safety and operation on Chilliwack Lake,
  - provides information about known hazards in the park;
- provide information about fisheries and the importance of the Chilliwack River system to the Fraser Basin;
- consult with Sto:lo and Nlaka'pamux First Nations to determine appropriate information dissemination.

Commercial Recreation

Because of the number of commercial services, such as equipment rental and supplies, currently available in the Chilliwack Valley, the relatively small size of the park and the park's conservation objective, opportunities for commercial recreation, authorized by park use permit, will only be considered if the permit activity extends to, and is primarily dependent upon, adjacent lands outside the park. No commercial recreation will be permitted in the ecological reserve.

Plate 3 - Chilliwack Lake - looking towards North Cascades National Park

Communications

Communicating information about the protected area is an important component of this plan. Increased awareness provides major support for management strategies and decisions.

Information

BC Parks provides information in brochures and a variety of publications. The park is also highlighted in a number of guidebooks.

Management Objectives:
To ensure information reflects the regional and backcountry role of the park, as well as to portray the protected area as part of an international system.

Management Strategies:

- provide public information with emphasis placed on the park's natural lake and mountain character. All of the information produced will contribute to:
  - creating an awareness of the role of the provincial park and ecological reserve
  - enhancing use and enjoyment of facilities and services
  - developing understanding and appreciation of natural resources in the protected area
- co-ordinate information with the United States National Park Service and focus park information on the role of the park and ecological reserve.
- liaise with Tourism Chilliwack to provide park visitors with information of things-to-do outside the park.

Awareness and Pre-Trip Planning

Visitors and users to Chilliwack Lake are mainly from the Lower Mainland. Residents from Chilliwack and surrounding area are familiar with the valley's natural features and come to enjoy fishing, camping and other outdoor recreation activities.

Management Objectives:
To provide accurate and updated information about the park and adjacent protected areas.

Management Strategies:

- provide input to guidebooks produced to provide information about the park, outlining:
  - location, facilities, conservation and recreation roles
  - natural and cultural resources and regional information for the Chilliwack Valley as well as North Cascades National Park;
- ensure that local tourism and information centres are well informed with material that discusses the park and ecological reserve.

In-Park Information

BC Parks currently provides park orientation and information largely through on-site signs. Emphasis is placed on public recreation safety, visitor enjoyment and preservation of natural resources.

Management Objectives:
To provide visitors with on-site information that enhances their outdoor experience.

Management Strategies:

- continue present park orientation and information program;
- integrate trail and facility information with North Cascades National Park;
- ensure that facilities and signs (including information shelter and trail signs) are consistent and integrated to enhance the park's role;
- ensure that public safety messages are clearly communicated, particularly fire evacuation.

Natural and Cultural Heritage Education

Features within the ecological reserve and park present the area's natural and cultural resources. Messages to visitors will present themes that are unique to the park and ecological reserve and that emphasize their conservation, recreation and cultural heritage roles.

Major themes to be presented will focus on:

- the role of the ecological reserve as a transition between coastal and interior tree species
- the ecological reserve and park as part of a large Cascade Mountain protected area.

Management Objectives:
To develop, with others, information on the educational themes associated with natural and cultural heritage.

Management Strategies:

- cooperate with Sto:lo and Nlaka'pamux First Nations for the preparation of in-park information;
- obtain information for the preparation of in-park information pertaining to forest resources, including old growth features;
- obtain information for the preparation of in-park information pertaining to fish and wildlife resources, including endangered wildlife.

Plan Implementation

Management Strategies from the Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park and Chilliwack River Ecological Reserve Management Plan are of varying priority. As such, they will be implemented in strategic stages.

Immediate Priority Management Strategies

Natural & Cultural Resource Management

- solicit management recommendations from Sto:lo and Nlaka'pamux First Nations for cultural features;
- issue park use permits for the Church Camp at Paleface Creek and the water licenses;
- develop a vegetation management plan;
- monitor bank erosion in the ecological reserve.

Recreation Use Management

- liase with the Ministry of Forests and others to address the impact on the east side of Chilliwack Lake;
- establish a 30 car centralized trailhead at the park entrance including horse loading/unloading facilities and relocate start of Radium Trail, including construction of a bridge at the Lake's outlet, and Greendrop-Lindeman Trail;
- formalize wilderness campsites at Lindeman Lake, Greendrop Lake, Flora Lake and Radium Lake;
- establish walk-in/cycle-in/boat-in wilderness campsites at Depot Creek and picnic sites at Paleface Creek and the south end of Chilliwack Lake;
- prohibit snowmobiles in the park;
- request Fisheries and Oceans to enact regulations to implement a 10 km/hr, 100 meter shoreline speed restriction around the lake and a 25 km/hr restriction on the remainder of the lake;
- provide public information in an informal manner, with emphasis placed on the parks' natural lake and mountain character. All of the information produced will contribute to:
  - creating an awareness of the role of the provincial park and ecological reserve;
  - enhancing use and enjoyment of facilities and services;
  - developing understanding and appreciation of natural resources in the protected area.
- co-ordinate information with the United States National Park Service and focus information on the role of the provincial park and ecological reserve and liaise with Tourism Chilliwack;
- prepare a fire safety/evacuation plan and ensure it is communicated to the public;
- enhance small boat launching, canoe support facilities and launch area parking within the Intensive Recreation Zone;
- upgrade original campground to park standards.

Intermediate Priority Management Strategies

Natural & Cultural Resource Management

- review logging plans on adjacent Provincial Forest lands to address any visual and water quality issues;
- conduct a wildlife habitat inventory;
- develop a wildlife management strategy in conjunction with wildlife management agencies outside the park, including Washington State;
- develop a fisheries management strategy.

Recreation Use Management

- construct the Chilliwack River Trail linking Post Greek to Chilliwack Lake;
- upgrade Flora Lake Trail, Greendrop-Lindeman Trail, Radium Trail to Type 3 standard;
- relocate the Upper Chilliwack Trail (North Cascades National Park Trail) to outside the ecological reserve and establish as Type 3 trail;
- prepare a Visitor Services Plan that:
  - integrates an interpretive sign strategy pertaining to surficial geology, the Cascade
  - Mountains and surrounding protected areas;
  - emphasizes boating safety and operation on Chilliwack Lake;
  - provides information about known hazards in the park;
  - provides information about fisheries and the importance of the Chilliwack River system to the Fraser Basin;
  - consults with Sto:lo and Nlaka'pamux First Nations to integrate appropriate information pertaining to archeological sites and features.
- encourage guidebooks to provide information about the park, outlining:
  - location, facilities, conservation and recreation roles;
  - natural and cultural resources and regional information for the Chilliwack Valley as well as North Cascades National Park;
- develop the campground fire history trail.

Distant Priority Management Strategies

Natural & Cultural Resource Management

- direct and encourage research of park and ecological reserve features:
  - old-growth coastal forest of the CWH Biogeoclimatic Zone;
  - rare and endangered wildlife species.
- approach provincial institutions with specific invitations for biological research proposals;
- review stocking programs for alpine lakes.